For this purpose, the RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks in January 2002 on detection of sickness in MSEs at an early stage and taking remedial measures and for rehabilitation of sick MSEs identified as potentially viable. The RBI has also issued guidelines on 8th September 2005 relating to debt restructuring mechanism for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), based on the "Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to SMEs" announced by the Central Government on 10th August 2005.

The Standing Advisory Committee on Flow of Institutional Credit to the MSME sector in RBI had observed in January 2007 that there was considerable delay in rehabilitation/nursing of the potentially viable units, mainly on account of the inability of the promoters to bring in additional contribution. Consequent to this, a Working Group on 'Rehabilitation of Sick SMEs' was constituted to look into the issues and suggest remedial measures so that the potentially viable sick units could be rehabilitated at the earliest. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group, the RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks on May 4, 2009 to consider, for speedy implementation, the recommendations made with regard to timely and adequate flow of credit to the MSE sector. The Banks have also been advised to apply the RBI's guidelines on debt restructuring optimally and in letter and spirit and put in place their own non-discretionary one-time settlement (OTS) policy for this sector.

Katra-Qajigund rail line

†114. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work is going to recommence on the Katra-Qajigund railway line;

(b) whether the bridge would be made on previous location, or the route would be changed;

(c) whether accountability for the delay in execution and escalation in expenditure incurred so far has been fixed; and

(d) if not, the time by when it will be done?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) Due to technical problems and safety/security considerations, the alignment between Katra-Qajigund was reviewed and an Expert Committee was appointed to study the issues involved Committee has recently submitted its report, which is under examination. Since it is a project of National importance, top most priority will be accorded for completion of the project.

Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project

*115. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) the progress made on Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project;

(b) whether it is a fact that the project has been significantly delayed and there have been cost over-runs;

(c) if so, the details of extending time-limit and cost over-runs;

(d) whether it is also a fact that expert committee on the said project has received inputs apprehending the technological sustainability and financial viability of the project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government proposes to make changes in the route in view of such reservations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) On this rail project, Jammu-Udhampur and Anantnag-Baramulla sections have already been completed and commissioned to traffic. Qazigund-Anantnag section is targeted for commissioning in August 2009. The section from Udhampur to Katra is targeted for commissioning by December, 2011 and Qazigund-Banihal by March, 2012. The alignment between Katra-Banihal has been under review and an Expert Committee appointed to study the issues involved has recently submitted its report. The report of the Committee is under examination in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) This is a project being done in Himalayas which are the youngest mountain range in the world. The terrain is difficult with geological uncertainties. There have been delays due to technical difficulties being faced and the same may have cost implications also. The time schedule for completion of the entire project will be fixed once the decision on the report of the Expert Committee is finalized.

(d) and (e) The Expert Committee had received inputs through interaction with the contractors, consultants and officials associated with the project. The issue of financial viability was not referred to the Committee.

(f) The route will get decided once the final decision on the report of the Committee is taken.

Sugar Mills

†*116. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 650 mills are engaged in production of sugar in the country;

(b) if not, the actual number of these mills;

(c) whether out of these only 107 mills have electricity generation as a by-product;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi